[Translation]

Examination System

2775. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reform the Examination System adopted by the Union Public Service Commission so as to remove the shortcomings noticed in the system recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). No Sir, the existing system is working well and whenever any deficiencies are noticed, the same are rectified.

Homelessness

2776. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "36 million Indians are homeless, says the Minister" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated October 7, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Based on 1991 census, the estimated housing shortage in the country as of 1.3.96 is 21.56 million dwelling units. The number of houseless persons in India as per 1991 census is 2,007,489 (excluding the population of Jammu and Kashmir where 1991 census was not conducted).

(c) The National Housing Policy adopted by Parliament in 1994 stipulates reducing houselessness during next ten years through a number of concrete measures outlined in the policy.

[English]

Upper Indirawati Power Project

2777. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has released funds for Upper Indirawati Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the balance sanctioned funds yet to be released for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the rest of sanctioned funds are likely to released; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 320 crores has been sanctioned by Power Finance Corporation vide sanction letter dated 18th April, 1996 and an amount of Rs. 36.70 crores has been disbursed upto November, 1996.

(c) and (d). The drawal schedule as proposed by Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) subject to loan conditions is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

1996-97	100.00	(includes Rs. 36.70 crores already released upto November, 1996)
1997-98	80.00	
1998-99	80.00	
1999-2000	60.00	
Total	320.00	

(e) All the units are scheduled for completion by 1998-99.

[Translation]

Housing Scheme with External Assistance

2778. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any housing scheme is running/ proposed to be run with foreign assistance in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The following housing schemes are under implementation in Maharashtra with external Assistance :

I. World Bank Assisted Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Project in Latur and Osmanabad Districts.

World Bank has committed soft loan of SDR 177 million for reconstruction of 26871 houses, 469 community buildings, strengthening/repairs of 1,72,444 houses, construction of roads, bridges, public/other

buildings and economic rehabilitation of earthquake affected families. The progress of works is being monitored by the World Bank Mission from time to time.

II KfW Assisted HUDCO-KfW IV

German Bank for reconstruction (KfW) has committed grant assistance of DM 8.80 million to HUDCO as part of above project for construction of 1342 houses for the earthquake victims in Latur district of Maharashtra. The work has since been completed and dwelling units are being handed over to the State Government.

III. *KfW Assisted Projects of HDFC*

Housing Development and Finance Corporation has provided loans to individual beneficiaries for construction of their houses. Details are as follows :

(i) Housing schemes for small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in Raigad Distt. covering 138 families with a loan assistance of Rs. 30.36 lakhs.

(ii) Housing scheme for EWS families at Vazar (Sangli Distt.) covering 10 families with loan assistance of Rs. 2.26 lakhs.

(iii) Proposed housing scheme for 1000 families at Devrukh (Ratnagiri Distt.) with an estimated loan assistance of Rs. 3 crores.

[English]

Refinery Project

2779. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the proposal of Reliance and Essar for setting up a pipeline between Jamnagar and Kandla for their refinery projects;

(b) whether the proposal is justified in the light of the recommendations of Sunder Rajan Committee on common carrier principle to be applied compulsorily to all pipelines;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to set up a common holding company which will build for oil companies; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has submitted a proposal for laying Jamnagar-Kandla Pipeline for evacuation of products from private sector refineries proposed to be set up at Jamnagar. The proposal is under process for Ist Stage clearance.

(c) and (d). The Government has approved formation of a Holding Company and subsidiary joint venture company for expeditiously implementation of the pipeline projects. Formation of the Joint Venture Companies and financing of the same are under finalisation stage.

Allotments of Green Lands

2780. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Allotments being made from green areas" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 18, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The allotments of school and petrol pump sites mentioned in the news item appearing in the Times of India dated 18.11.1996 were made according to Master Plan land-uses and layout provisions of the areas. But no such allotment has been made in the recreational (green) land-use area.

Gross Domestic Product

2781. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) spent in the country for research and development;

(b) whether the funds allocated are adequate for India to equip itself to compete with the global corporations of the rich industrialised countries;

(c) whether the Government plan to increase the allocation for research and development to at least 1% of the GDP; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) spent in the country on Research and Development (R & D) is 0.81 according to currently available figures.

(b) to (d). The expenditure on R & D in India as percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) is lower compared to that in rich industrialised countries which spent 2 to 3 per cent of GNP. The investments on R & D can go up only through the joint efforts of both Government and the private sector. Several fiscal incentives and other support measures are provided by the Government to industry to encourage investment on R & D.